(d) when was an announcement made in U.N. recently; and

(e) the effective steps taken by India to counter this move of Pakistan and what has been the extent of effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) OIC has 57 member States and 5 observer States.

(c) Pakistan plays a proactive role in the OIC to take advantage of its presence at OIC to do so.

(d) The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir met on September 28, 2009 on the sidelines of 64th UN General Assembly session in New York and announced the appointment of OIC's Special Envoy on Kashmir.

(e) Yes. The matter is invariably raised at bilateral level and in meetings with group of OIC member States.

The Government of India has issued a strong rebuttal in response to the OIC resolution stating that "It is regrettable that the OIC has commented on India's internal affairs. We condemn and reject this. Inherent in OIC's statements and actions on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir is a complete inability to understand India's position. Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and it is our firm position that the OIC has no locus standi in matters concerning India's internal affairs."

Assistance to Sri Lanka

803. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has expressed its readiness to provide further assistance to Government of Sri Lanka for the war displaced persons housed in the refugee camps of northern province of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Sri Lankan Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) and (b) Government of India attaches high priority to the welfare and rehabilitation of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Northern Sri Lanka. An amount of Rs. 500 Crores has been announced by Government for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Northern Sri Lanka. Several steps have been taken in this connection. Since October, 2008, 2.5 lakh family packs were sent to the IDPs as part of the relief and humanitarian assistance. A 60-member emergency field hospital operated in Sri Lanka for six months till September, 2009 and treated more than 50,000 patients. India has sent four demining teams and 2600 tons of shelter material for resettling the IDPs in their original areas of habitation. We are extending

assistance to revive agriculture in Northern Sri Lanka. About 20,000 agricultural starter packs have been donated by India for IDP families resettling in the North.

(c) Sri Lankan Government have welcomed India's assistance towards the rehabilitation of IDPs. Further, Sri Lankan Government agreed to resettle the bulk of the IDPs to their original places of habitation in 180 days.

Hyderabad as a hub for Haj Pilgrims

804. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that Hyderabad is becoming a hub for Haj Pilgrims from South India;

(b) if so, whether there are any plans before his Ministry for constructing a separate and permanent Haj Terminal, in coordination with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, with all facilities existing at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport for Hajis;

(c) whether any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received in his Ministry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereon and action that has been contemplated or proposed to contemplate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) No. As per information available with the Government only three Airports *viz.* Delhi, Kolkata and Kozhikode are functioning as hubs for Haj pilgrims.

(b) and (c) The Ministry had received a request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for grant of Rs. 10 crores for construction of a separate Haj terminal in the existing Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad.

(d) As the Ministry of External Affairs does not have any provision for the grants for construction of airports and the subject matter does not fall within its purview, no further action on the request is contemplated by this Ministry.

Education and employment to slum dwelling children

†805. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) Government's plan to provide education and employment to slum-dwelling children, if not, reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government is not of the opinion that slum dwellers lead a life of hell with no education, health services and their houses looking like pile of rubbish;

(c) if so, the efforts being made to improve it by Government;

(d) if so, detailed reasons thereof; and

(e) whether Government have any plan to build houses for slum dwellers?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.